FalconForce

Understanding what's next; Combining red team findings and adversary playbooks

Gert-Jan Bruggink | Defensive Specialist | FalconForce

FIRST 2020 CTI Webinar Series

Why am I here?

- (Hypothesis) The majority of adversarial activity uses the similar or overlapping playbooks per compromise.
- Timely testing of these playbooks provides a cost-effective means to improve defenses.
- The Offensive Security Tooling (OST) discussion is GREAT. Here's a defender telling you why.
- We have no idea how to move the above from a subjective discussion to an objective one.

Agenda

- A bit of context
- Proposed way forward
- Applied example

Who am I?

Gert-Jan Bruggink

Defensive Specialist

FalconForce

10+ years in InfoSec
Consulted at financial services, high tech, manufacturing and governmental organizations

- Built / led CTI capabilities & delivery of CTI products
- Intelligence-led Red- & Purple Teaming
- CTI-, SOC- & Cyber transformation programs

Like staying on top of things, pioneering & bluetivism
Don't like magic tricks
Father 1 (almost 2 \0/)

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“We live in an unprecedented age of innovation”

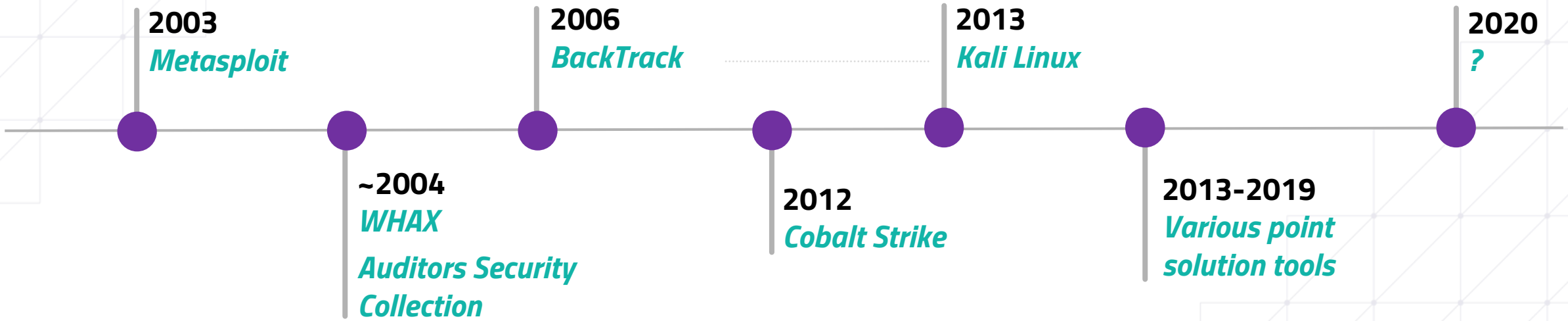
Pondering #1

Sometimes we're just too busy with the past

Our present security 'modus operandi' is **looking back**

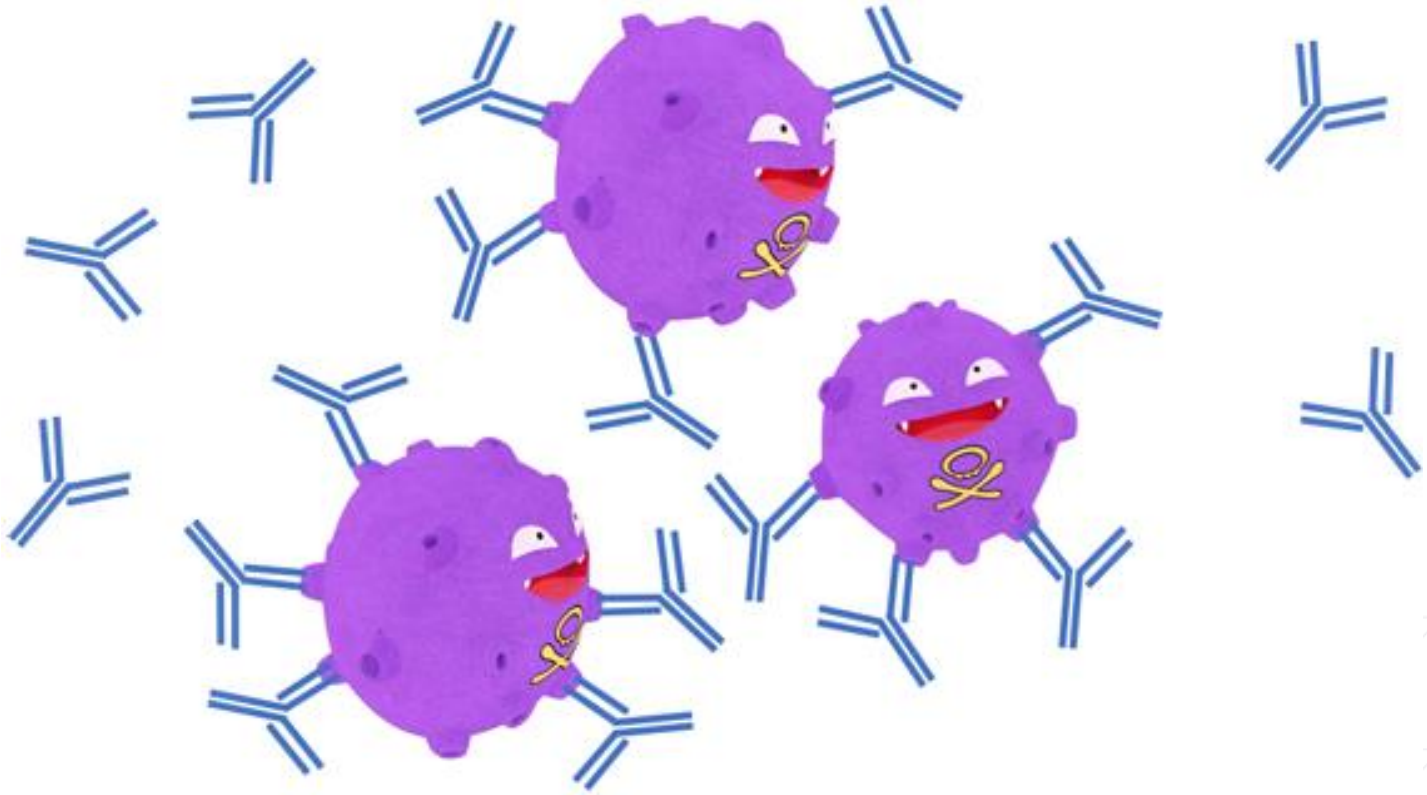
Pondering #2

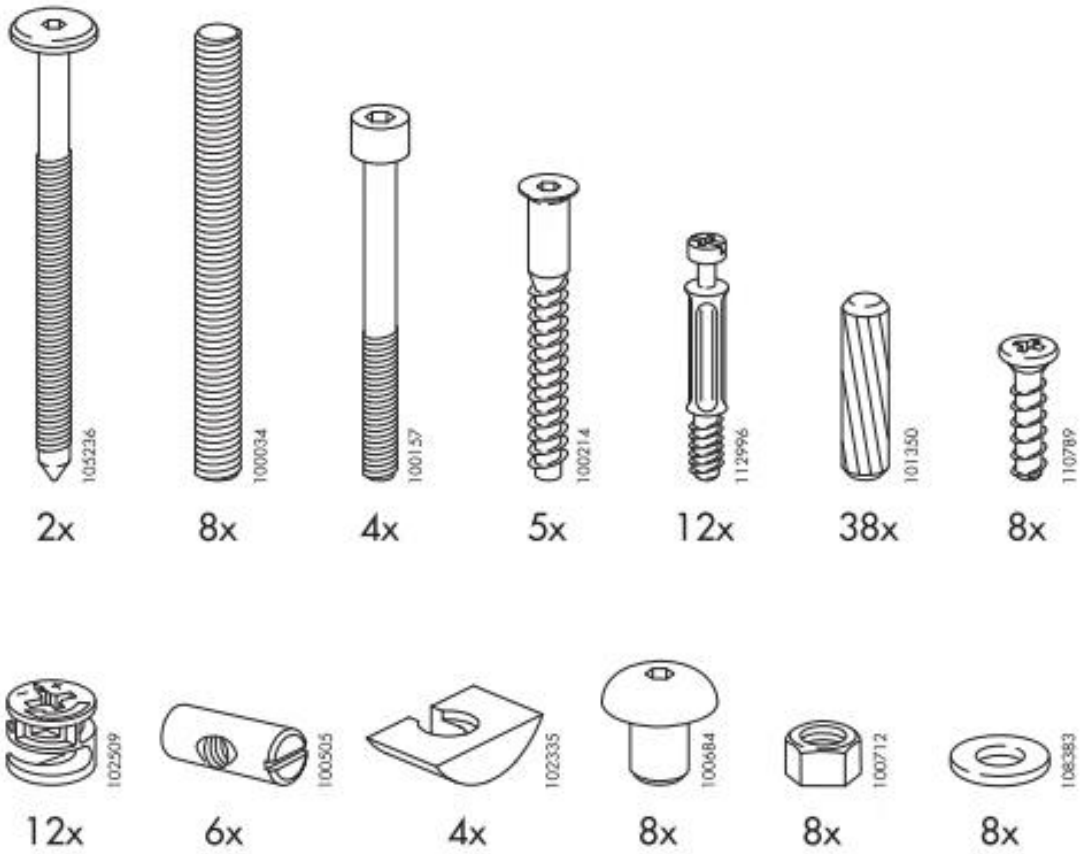
More effective and efficient tools are created as-we-speak



The cyber immunesystem

a.k.a. the ‘OST’ debate

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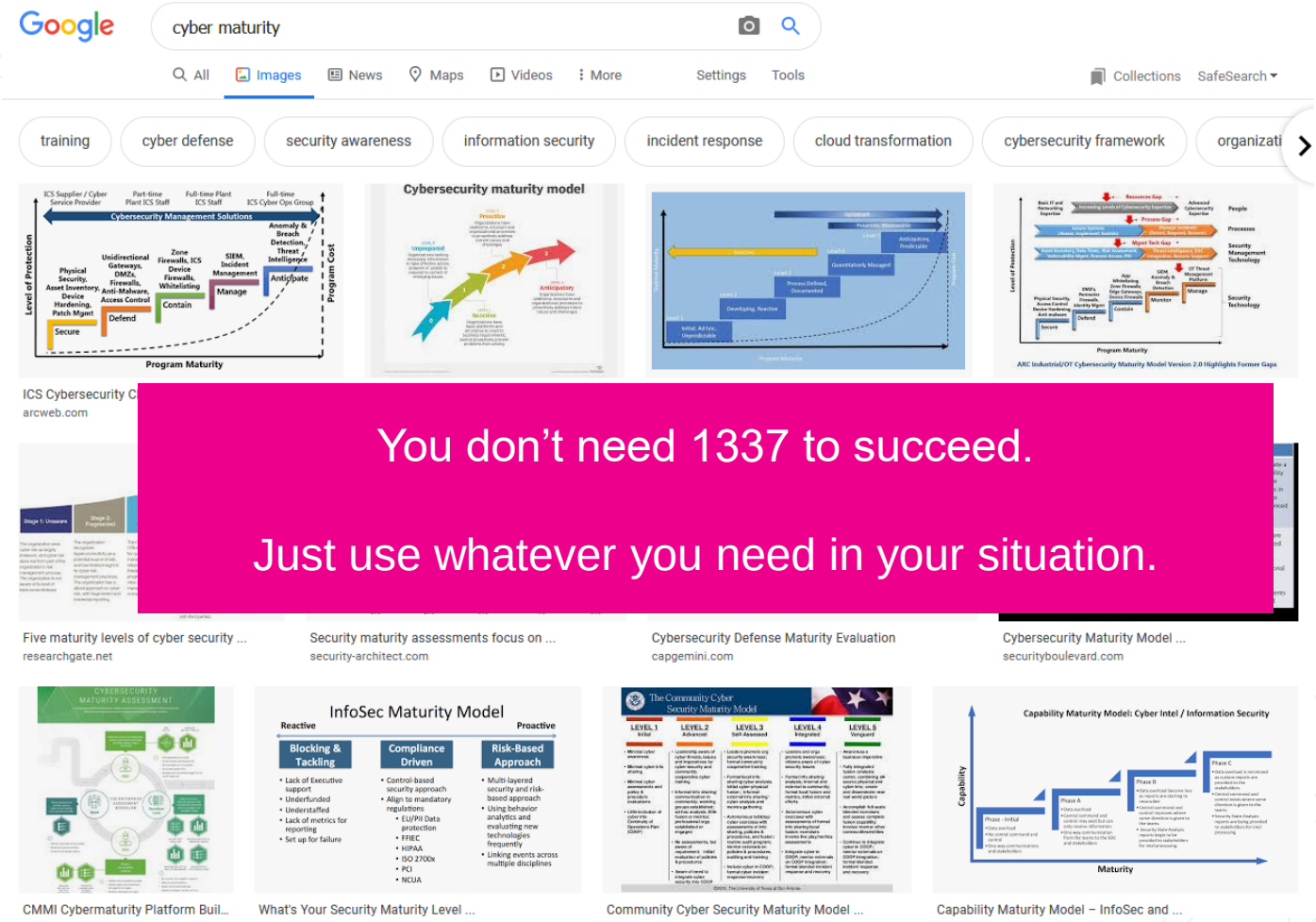
The first, and foremost, question

What is the level of org/cyber maturity you need?

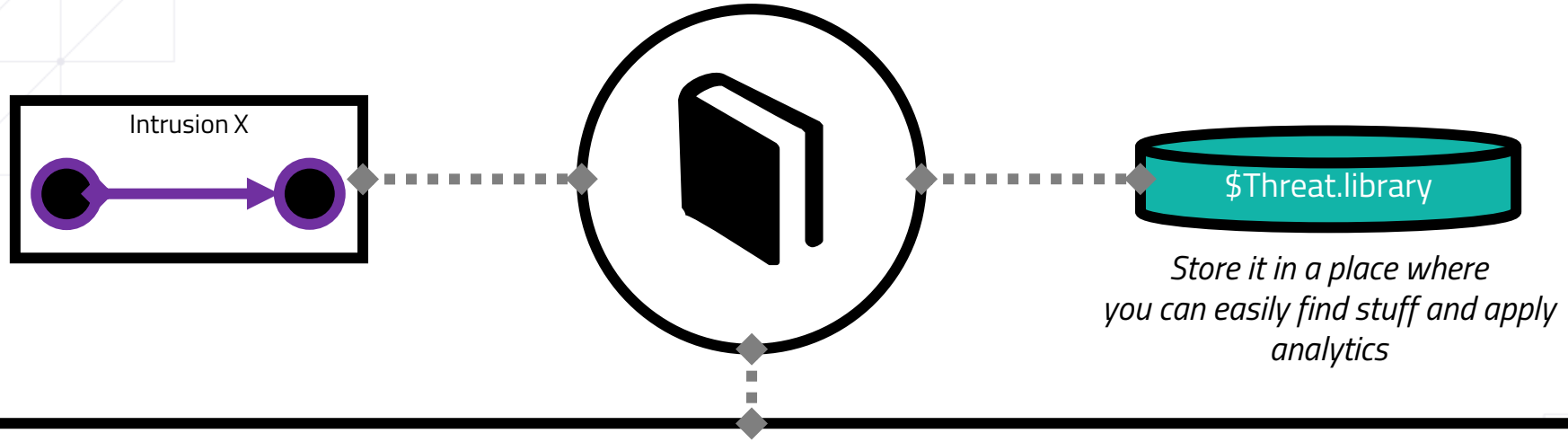


You don't need 1337 to succeed.

Just use whatever you need in your situation.

What is the adversary playbook

How do I build one and how do I use it?



Store it in a place where you can easily find stuff and apply analytics

Deeper meaning e.g. Diamond model	**Sequential steps** e.g. Cyber Kill Chain	**Profiling** e.g. breakdown of your understanding of the groups
Pre & post compromise behavior e.g. (Pre)ATT&CK	**Analytical "Joie de Vivre"** Human analysis	**Data/metrical model** e.g. the dreaded excel file

How can a playbook look like in practice?

Not a silver bullet, tailor it to your IR's

Group name	
Threat rating	Very low – very high, use one value that immediately showcases the sense of urgency.
Aliases	Write down all the other names you know.
2 Row summary	Max 2 row description of the group.
Actor categorization	Your internal classification of threat actor groups. Basically your setup of types or categories of groups.
Actor motivation	Your internal classification of motivations.
Sophistication rating	Your internal rating to classify their sophistication.
Assessment	Your analyst team's assessment on the group.
Activity sightings	Forecasted yes – forecasted no – sighted yes – sighted no – No assessment yet
Last known and disclosed activity	Note down the campaign trail of the group. Carefully maintaining this and integrating with other vendor tooling can support you with building a data set between 'activity sighted in the wild' and 'activity sighted in the network'.
Behavioral identifiers	Applying MITRE's ATT&CK framework to breakdown. You can apply this both for the group's behavior or for the tools they utilize • Tactics • Techniques • Sub-techniques
Key identifiers	Apply concepts such the cyber kill chain, ATT&CK or Diamond model to identify core identifiers that recognize this group.
Tools	Breakdown the tools used by this particular group. Preferably correlated with content seen in your intrusion sets.
ATOMIC understanding	IOC oriented stuff, such as • Domains • Hashes • etc

github.com/gertjanbruggink/Templates

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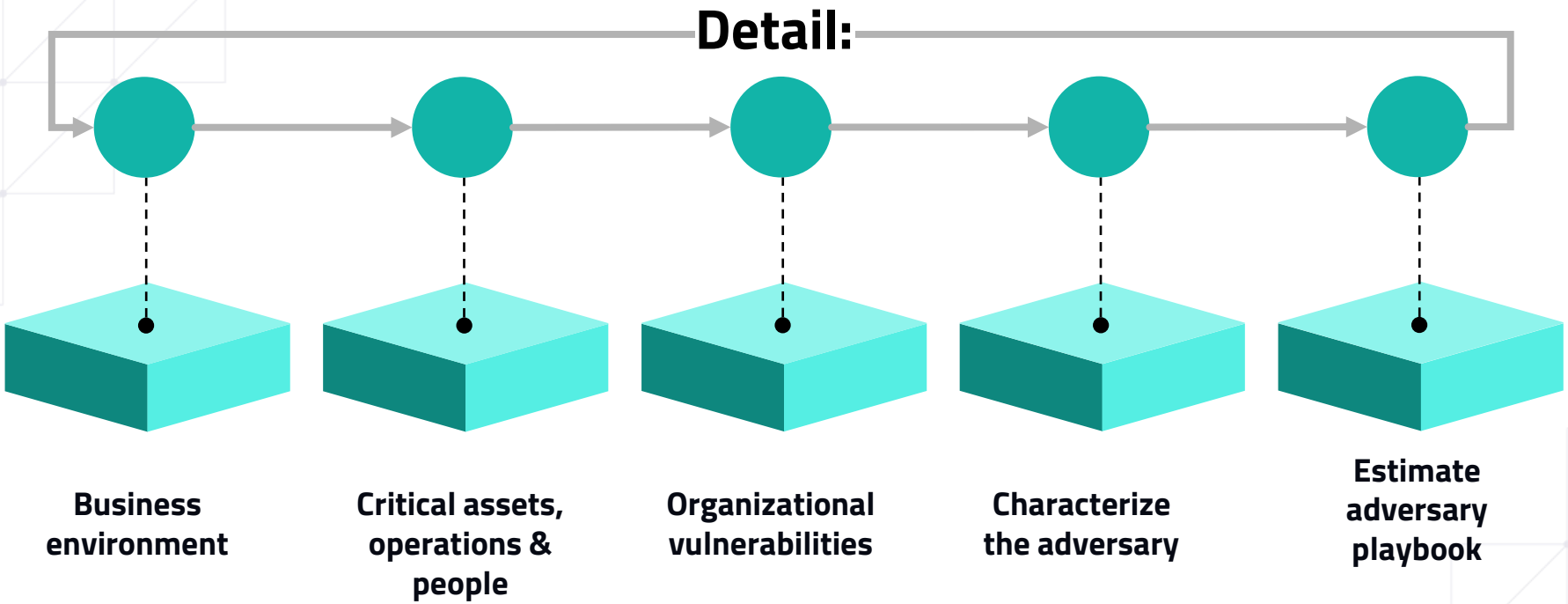
Developing your own intelligence environment

Where in Odin's name do you start?

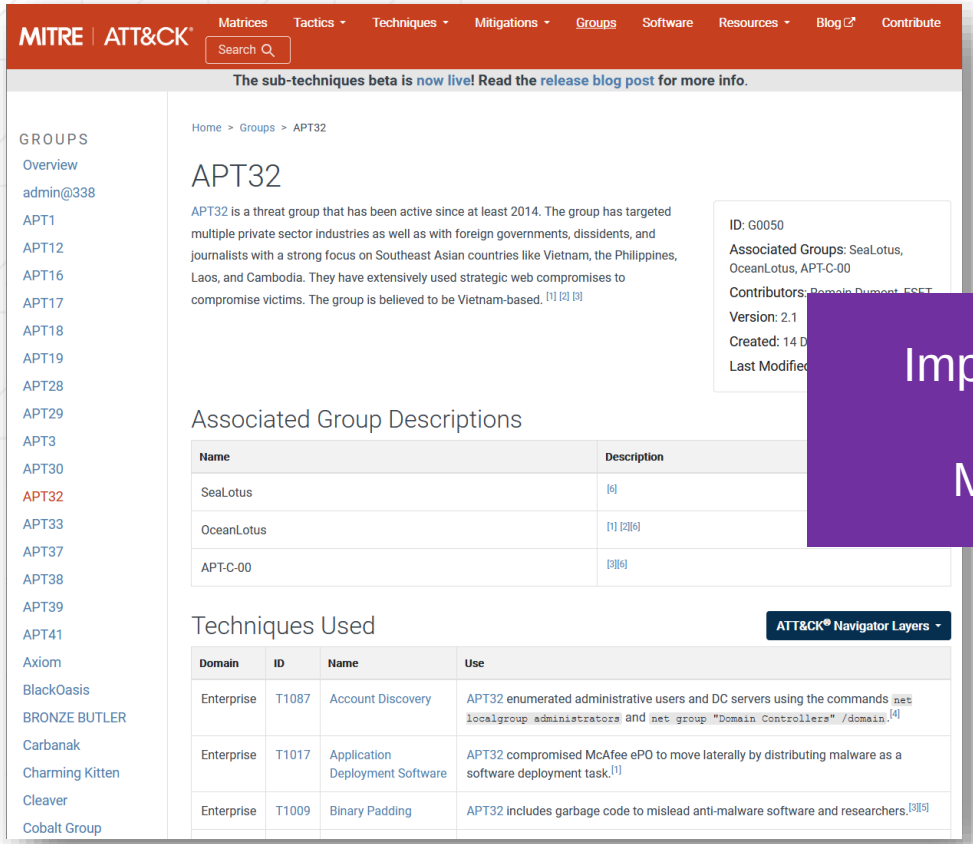


There's a lot of approaches. Succes depends tuning it to your org, people and ambition.
Refer to your old books like 'Structured Analytics Techniques'.

More depth on this another day. ☺

Start filling your playbooks!

There's much information available through open source



$ vendor reports

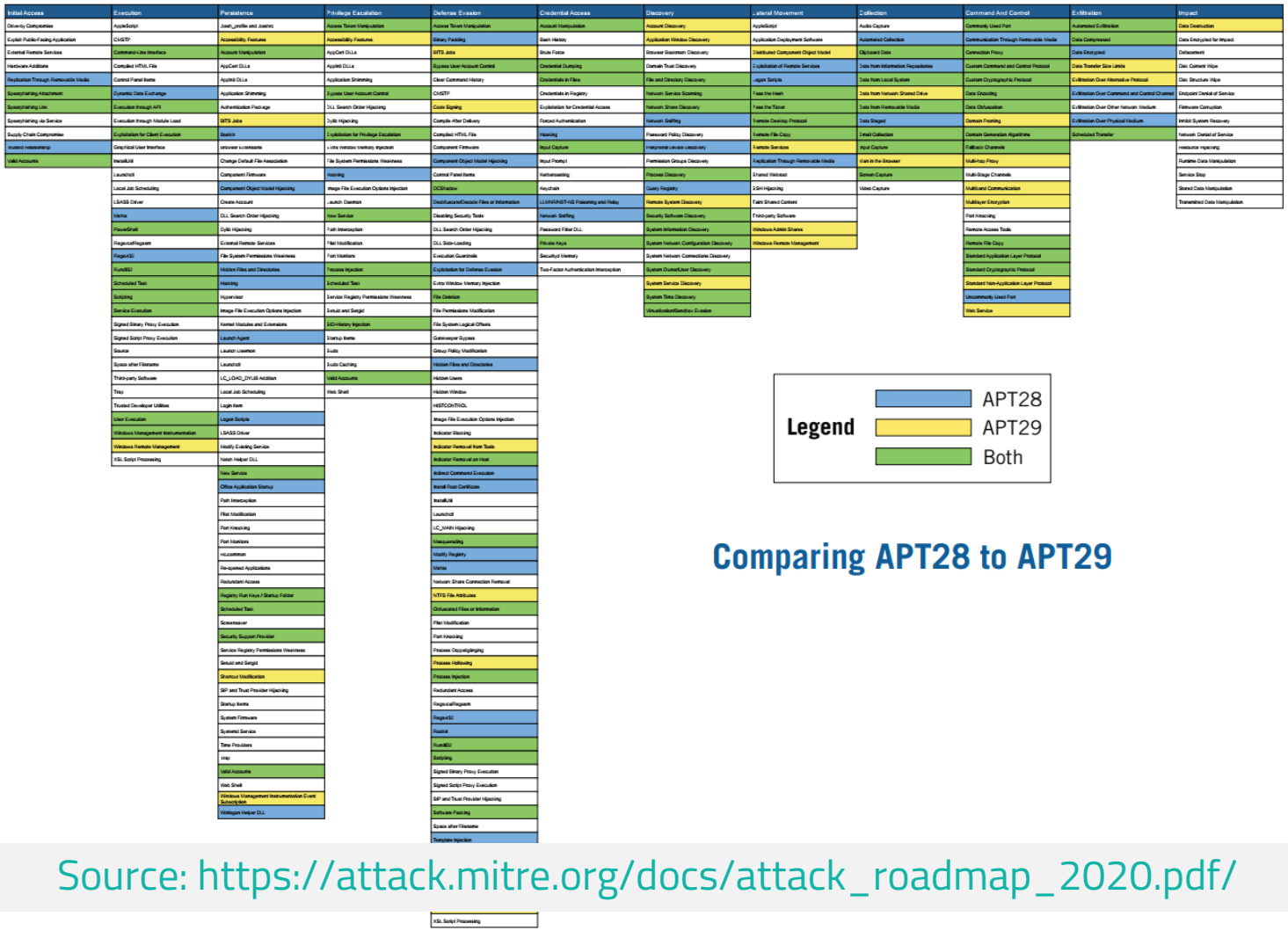
Important to consider: use your own environment.
Also relevant: use your own environment.
Most importantly: use your own environment.

$ research updates

Source: https://attack.mitre.org/groups/

Look what happens when you start analysis 1/2

X of intrusions use Z% techniques to target our organizations

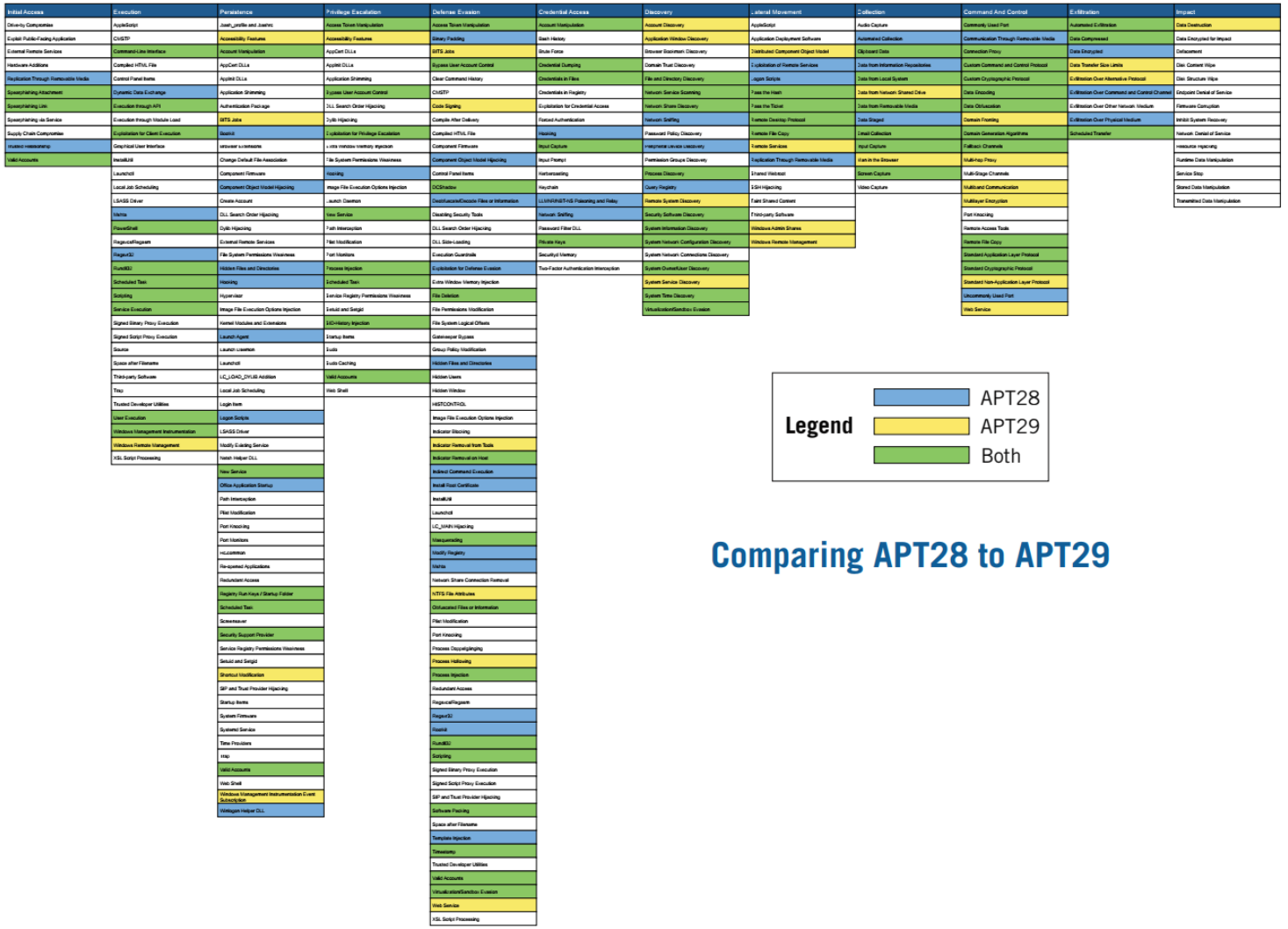


Comparing APT28 to APT29

Source: https://attack.mitre.org/docs/attack_roadmap_2020.pdf/

Look what happens when you start analysis 2/2

X of intrusions use Z% techniques to target our organizations



Comparing APT28 to APT29

~20% is unique to A
~10% is unique to B

~50% techniques overlap by groups A & B are overlapping

> Include weighing technique vs detection

Please note this is an example

The same concept goes for tools 1/2

<X> % of what is targeting organizations is Y

Top 10 most sighted malware strains					
		# uploaded samples			
Name	Trend	This week	%	Last week	%
Emotet	↙	227	19%	255	21%
AgentTesla	↗	206	17%	167	14%
LokiBot	↙	150	13%	235	19%
FormBook	↗	130	11%	125	10%
NanoCore	↗	129	11%	116	10%
Ursnif	↗	82	7%	81	7%
Pyrogenic	↗	80	7%	52	4%
Remcos	↙	73	6%	82	7%
njRAT	↗	64	5%	38	3%
AZORult	↙	44	4%	57	5%
	Total	1185	100%	1208	100%

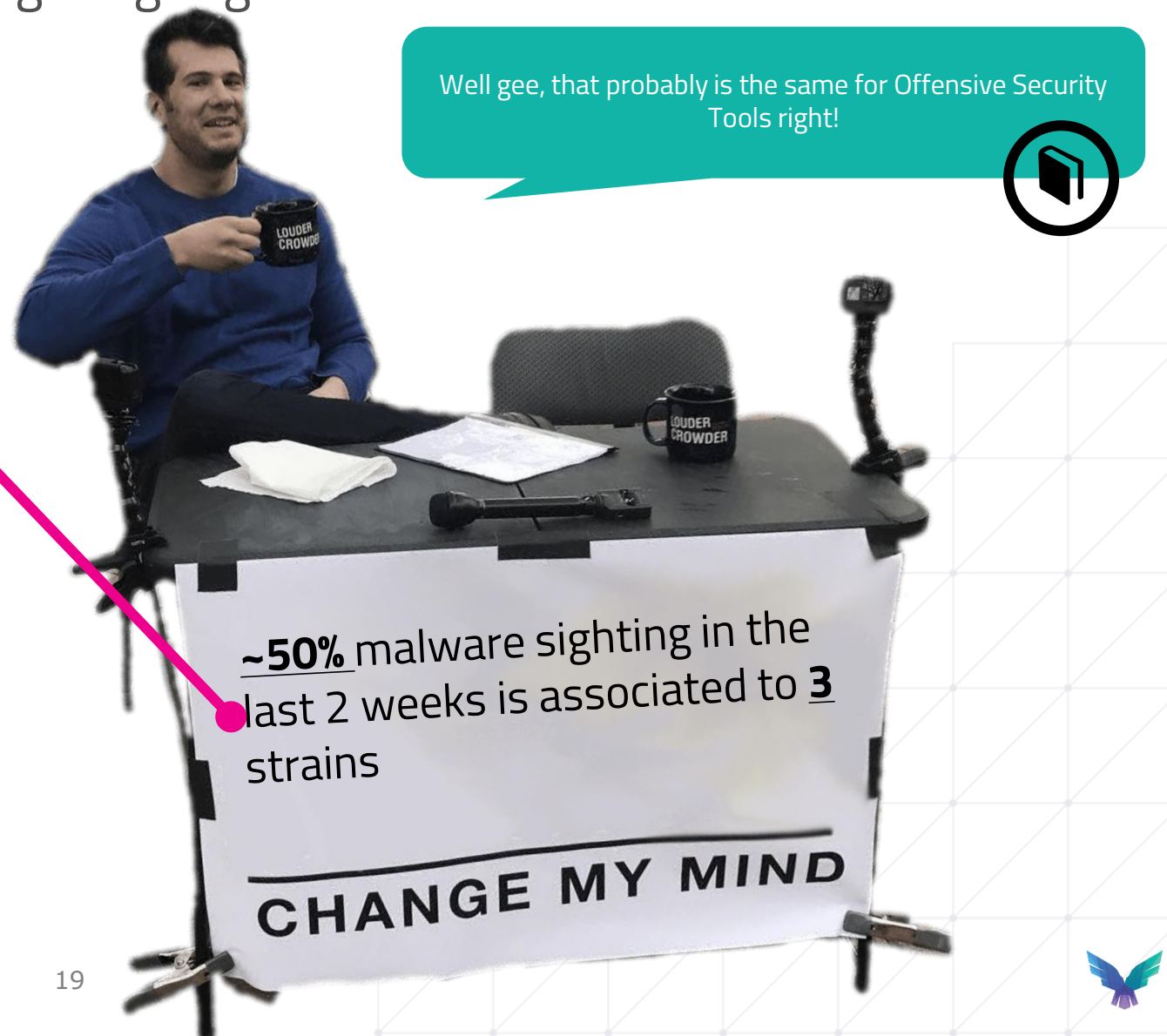
Source:
https://any.run/malware-trends/
Weekly top 10 overview

The same concept goes for tools 2/2

<X> % of what is targeting organizations is Y

Top 10 most sighted malware strains					
		# uploaded samples			
Name	Trend	This week	%	Last week	%
AgentTesla	↗	180	19%	150	21%
NanoCore	↗	139	17%	97	14%
Emotet	↙	102	13%	174	19%
njRAT	↙	101	11%	117	10%
LokiBot	↙	77	11%	99	10%
Remcos	↗	70	7%	49	7%
Formbook	↙	68	7%	72	4%
Qbot	↗	66	6%	65	7%
Quasar	↙	62	5%	65	3%
Netwire	↗	50	4%	31	5%
	Total	1185	100%	1208	100%

Source:
https://any.run/malware-trends/
Weekly top 10 overview

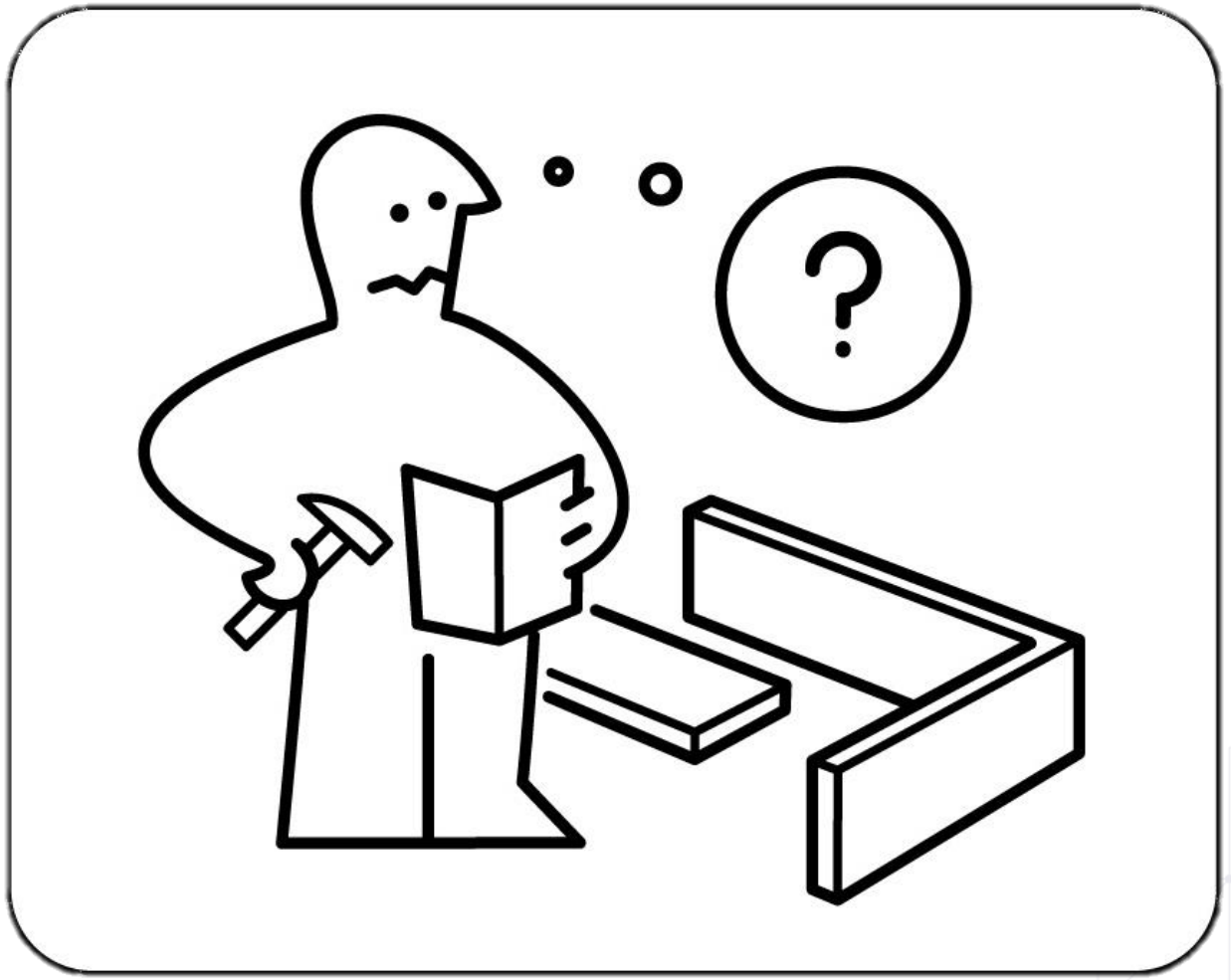


Is someone already doing this?

Adoption is happening, yet complex to share

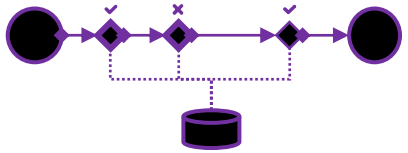
Source: https://www.crowdstrike.com/resources/reports/2019-crowdstrike-global-threat-report/

Now what's so difficult?

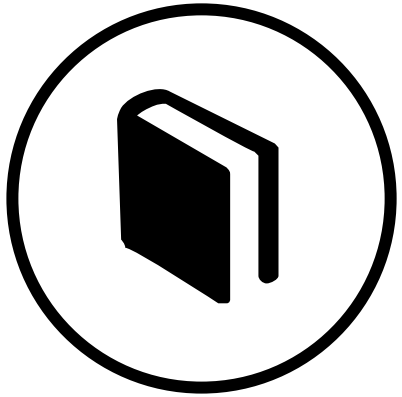


Factual validation options

Automated

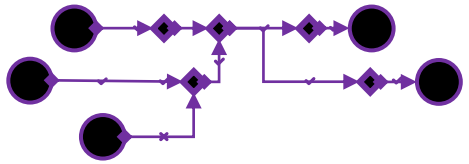


Breach ‘n attack simulation (e.g. MITRE Caldera, Scythe, AttackIQ).



Adversary Playbook

Manual



Red teaming.
Penetration testing.
Threat modeling.

Threat hunting
Signatures
etc

Using the red team

There are things you can learn before it's too late

Good book for getting introduced to what red teaming is in a non-military context

Source: https://redteam.guide/

The other ‘debate’

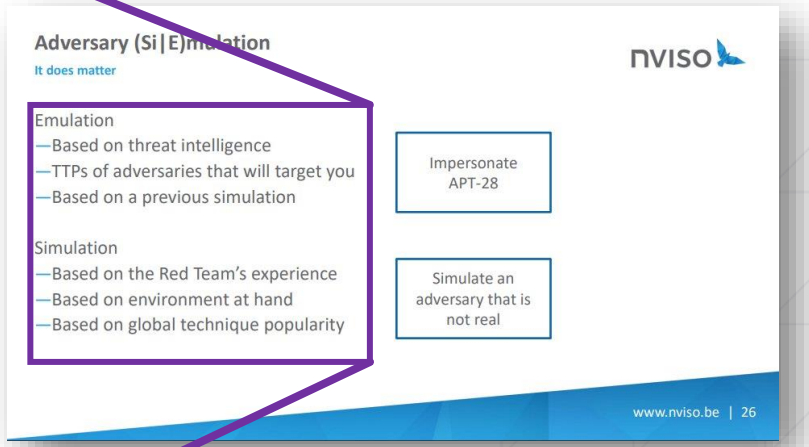
Simulation vs Emulation

Emulation
—Based on threat intelligence
—TTPs of adversaries that will target you
—Based on a previous simulation

Impersonate APT-28

Simulation
—Based on the Red Team’s experience
—Based on environment at hand
—Based on global technique popularity

Simulate an adversary that is not real



Shout out to our friends at NVISO, specifically Jonas Bauters for great summary.

Using the red team for simulation & emulation

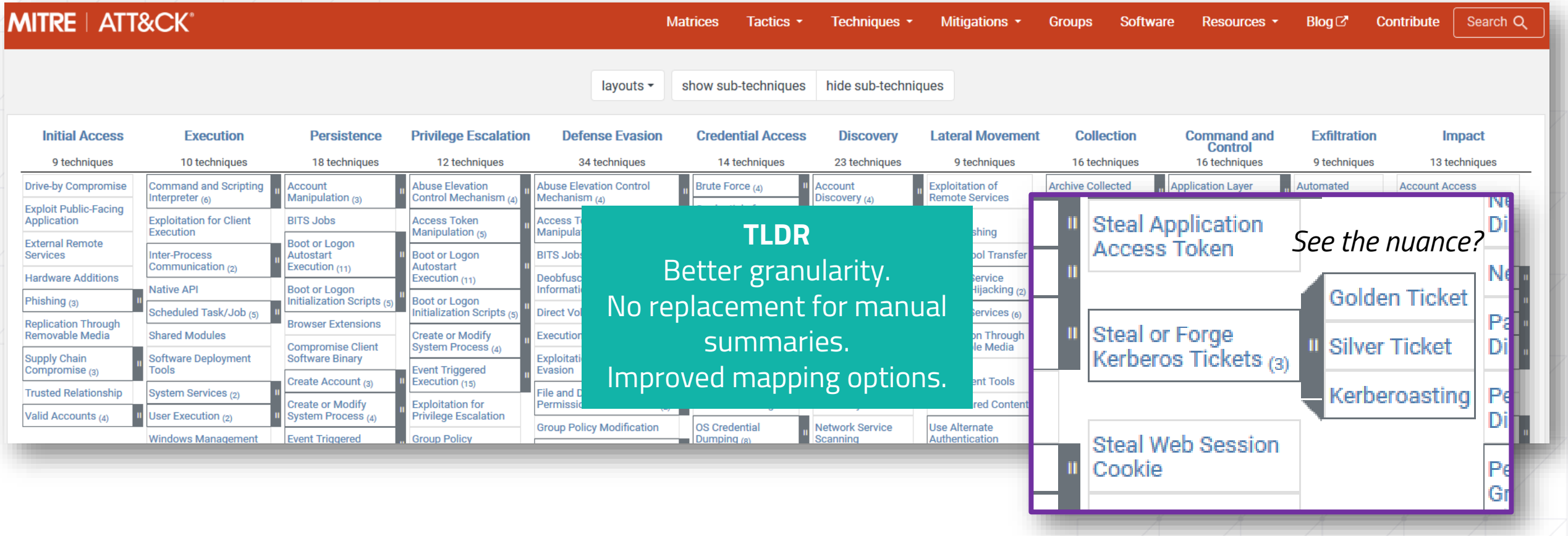
Putting your playbook knowledge to use

Initial Access	Execution	Persistence	Privilege Escalation	Defense Evasion	Credential Access	Discovery	Lateral Movement	Collection	Command and Control	Exfiltration	Impact
Drive-by Compromise	Scheduled Task			Binary Padding	Network Sniffing	Account Discovery	AppleScript	Audio Capture	Commonly Used Port	Automated Exfiltration	Data Destruction
Exploit Public-Facing Application	Launchctl		Access Token Manipulation		Account Manipulation	Application Window Discovery	Application Deployment Software	Automated Collection	Communication Through Removable Media	Data Compressed	Data Encrypted for Impact
External Remote Services	Local Job Scheduling		Bypass User Account Control		Bash History	Browser Bookmark Discovery	Distributed Component Object Model	Clipboard Data	Connection Proxy	Data Encrypted	Defacement
Hardware Additions	LSASS Driver		Extra Window Memory Injection		Brute Force	Domain Trust Discovery	Exploitation of Remote Services	Data from Information Repositories	Custom Command and Control Protocol	Data Transfer Size Limits	Disk Content Wipe
Replication Through Removable Media	Trap		Process Injection		Credential Dumping	File and Directory Discovery	Logon Scripts	Data from Local System	Custom Cryptographic Protocol	Exfiltration Over Other Network Medium	Disk Structure Wipe
Spearphishing Attachment	AppleScript	DLL Search Order Hijacking			Credentials in Files	Network Service Scanning	Pass the Hash	Data from Network Shared Drive	Data Encoding	Exfiltration Over Command and Control Channel	Endpoint Denial of Service
Spearphishing Link	CMSTP	Image File Execution Options Injection			Credentials in Registry	Network Share Discovery	Pass the Ticket	Data from Removable Media	Data Obfuscation	Exfiltration Over Alternative Protocol	Firmware Corruption
Spearphishing via Service	Command-Line Interface	Plist Modification			Exploitation for Credential Access	Password Policy Discovery	Remote Desktop Protocol	Data Staged	Domain Fronting	Exfiltration Over Physical Medium	Inhibit System Recovery
Supply Chain Compromise	Compiled HTML File	Valid Accounts			Forced Authentication	Peripheral Device Discovery	Remote File Copy	Email Collection	Domain Generation Algorithms	Scheduled Transfer	Network Denial of Service
Trusted Relationship	Control Panel Items	Accessibility Features		BITS Jobs	Hooking	Permission Groups Discovery	Remote Services	Input Capture	Fallback Channels		Resource Hijacking
Valid Accounts	Dynamic Data Exchange	AppCert DLLs		Clear Command History	Input Capture	Process Discovery	Replication Through Removable Media	Man in the Browser	Multiband Communication		Runtime Data Manipulation
	Execution through API	AppInit DLLs		CMSTP	Input Prompt	Query Discovery	Shared Webroot	Screen Capture	Multi-hop Proxy		
	Execution through Module Load	Application Shimming		Code Signing	Kerberoasting	Remote System Discovery	SSH Hijacking	Video Capture	Multilayer Encryption		
	Exploitation for Client Execution	Bypass User Account Control		Compiled HTML File	Keychain	Security Software Discovery	Taint Shared Content		Multi-Stage Channels		
	Graphical User Interface	Hooking		Component Firmware	LLMNR/NBT-NS Poisoning and Relay	System Information Discovery	Third-party Software		Port Knocking		
	InstallUtil	Launch Daemon		Component Object Model Hijacking	Password Filter DLL	System Network Configuration Discovery	Windows Admin Shares		Remote Access Tools		
	Mshta	New Service		Control Panel Items	Private Keys	System Network Connections Discovery	Windows Remote Management		Remote File Copy		
	PowerShell	Path Interception		DCShadow	Securityd Memory	System Owner/User Discovery			Standard Application Layer Protocol		
	Regsvcs/Regasm	Port Monitors		Deobfuscate/Decode Files or Information	Two-Factor Authentication Interception	System Service Discovery			Standard Cryptographic Protocol		
	Regsvr32	Service Registry Permissions Weakness		Disabling Security Tools		System Time Discovery			Standard Non-Application Layer Protocol		
	Rundll32	Setuid and Setgid		DLL Side-Loading		Virtualization/Sandbox Evasion			Uncommonly Used Port		
	Scripting	Startup Items		Execution Guardrails					Web Service		
	Service Execution	Web Shell		Exploitation for Defense Evasion							
	Signed Binary Proxy Execution	.bash_profile and .bashrc	Exploitation for Privilege Escalation	File Deletion							
	Signed Script Proxy Execution	Account Manipulation	SID-History Injection	File Permissions Modification							
	Source	Authentication Package	Sudo	File System Logical Offsets							
	Space after Filename	BITS Jobs	Sudo Caching	Gatekeeper Bypass							
	Third-party Software	Bootkit		Group Policy Modification							
	Trusted Developer Utilities	Browser Extensions		Hidden Files and Directories							
		Change Default File Association		Hidden Users							
		Component Firmware									

Ambiguous picture showing a potential attack scenario flow based on ATT&CK which you by now have stored in your playbook

MITRE's subtechniques 1/2

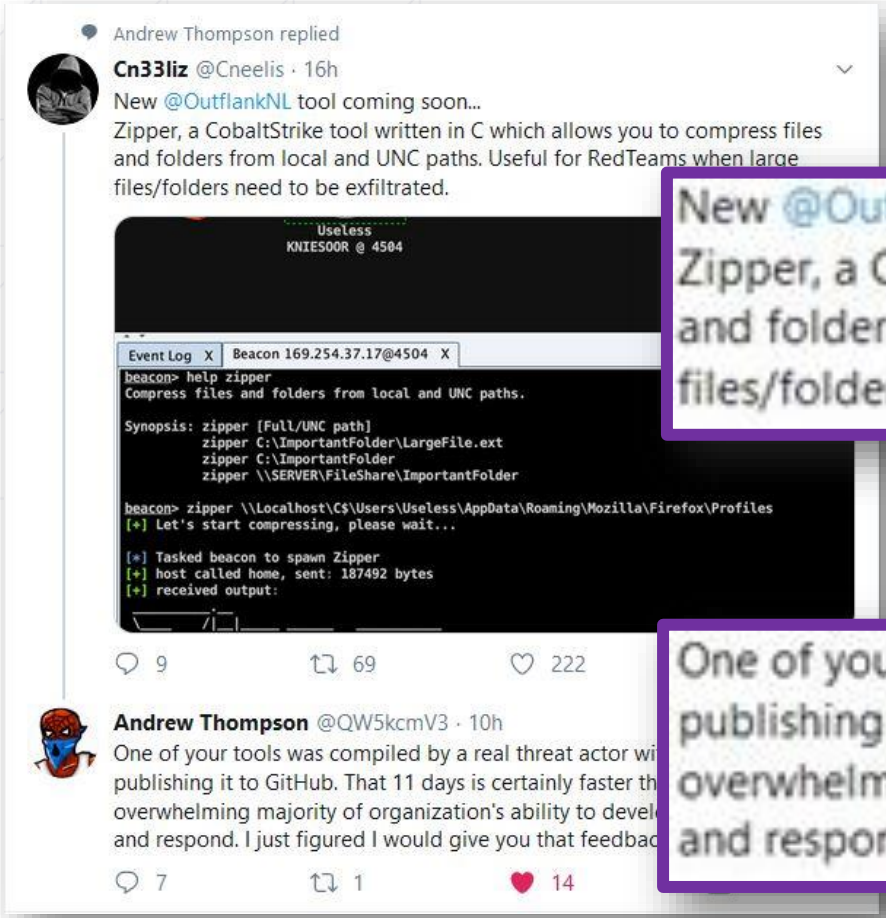
Bringing RT and CTI even closer



Source: https://attack.mitre.org/beta/

Current ~~Future~~ status of the tooling debate

The discussion is akin for some measurements



New @OutflankNL tool coming soon...
Zipper, a CobaltStrike tool written in C which allows you to compress files and folders from local and UNC paths. Useful for RedTeams when large files/folders need to be exfiltrated.

One of your tools was compiled by a real threat actor within 11 days of you publishing it to GitHub. That 11 days is certainly faster than the overwhelming majority of organization's ability to develop, deploy, detect, and respond. I just figured I would give you that feedback.

~~Current~~ Future status of the tooling debate

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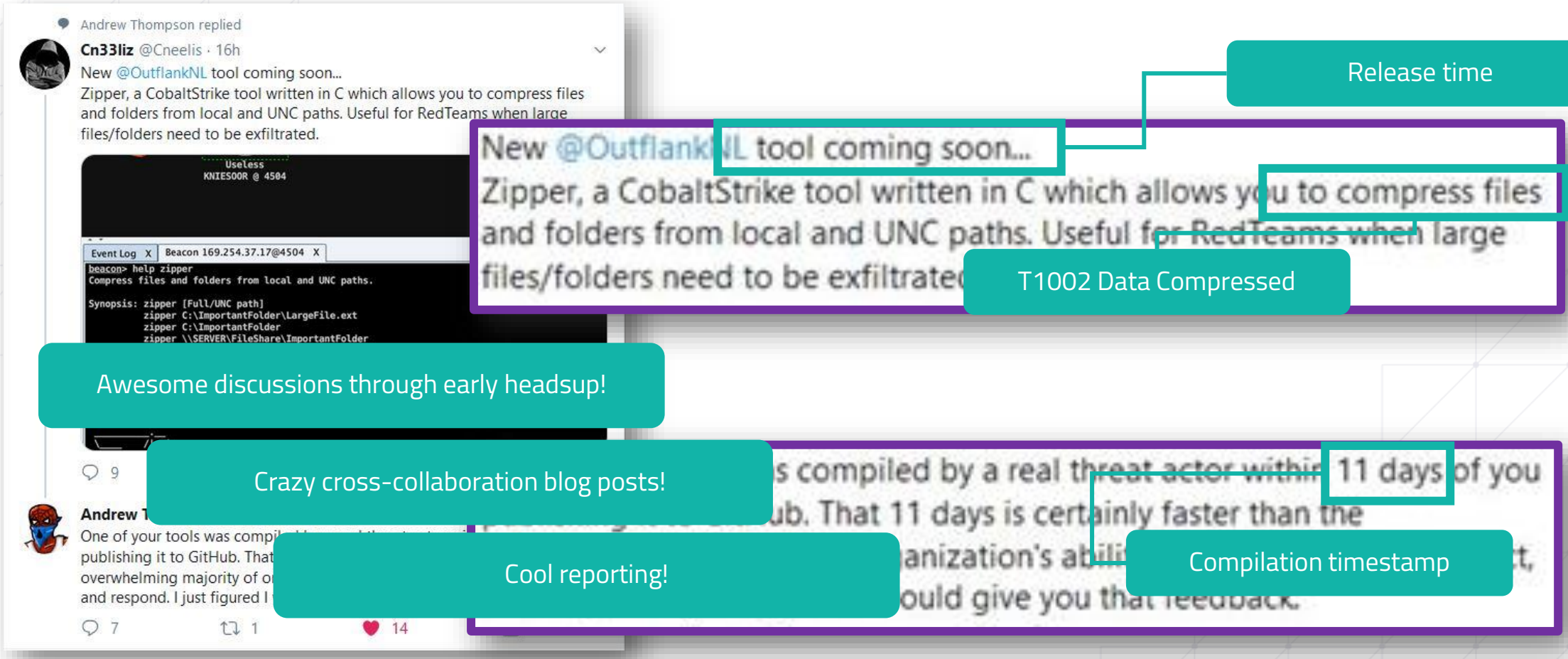


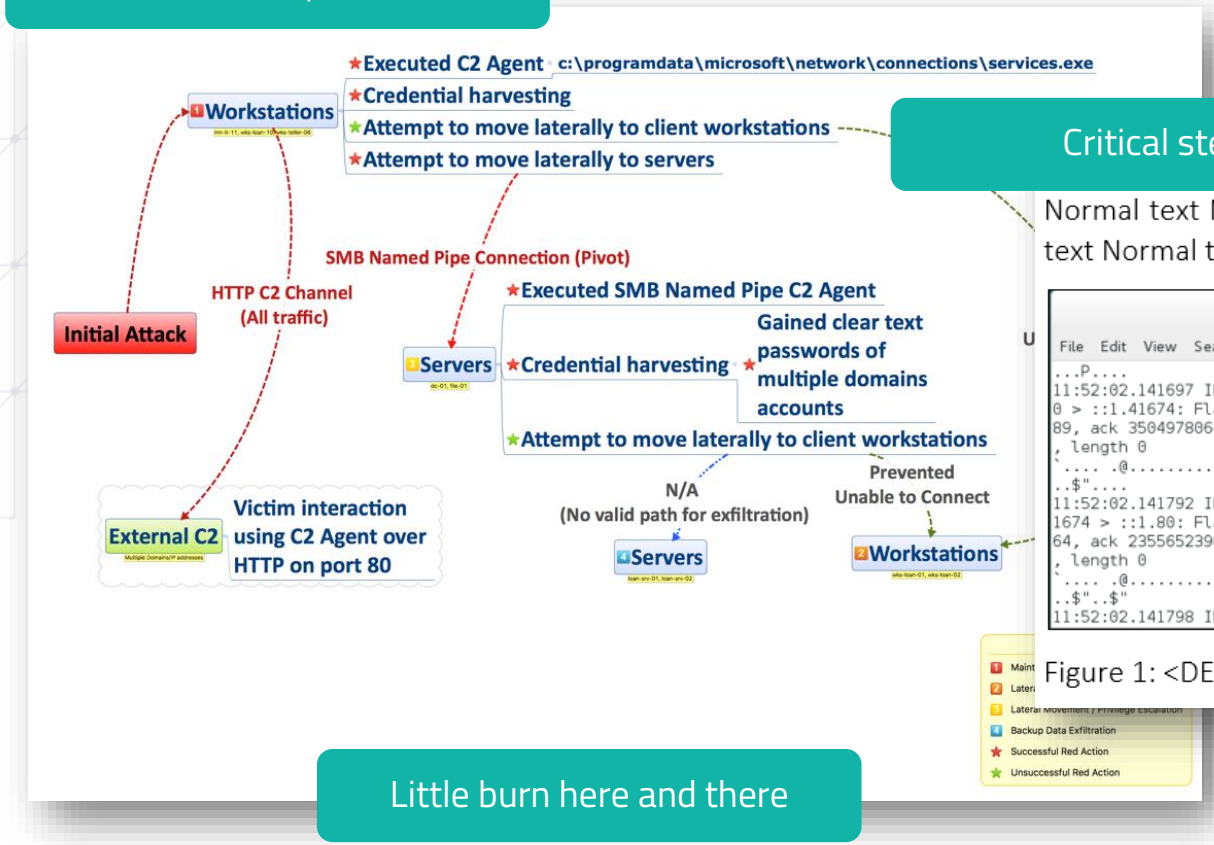
Getting the Red team report

Usually something like this

Attack sequence

Summary

Critical steps



Normal text Normal text Normal text Normal text Normal text Normal text Normal text Normal text Normal text Normal text Normal text

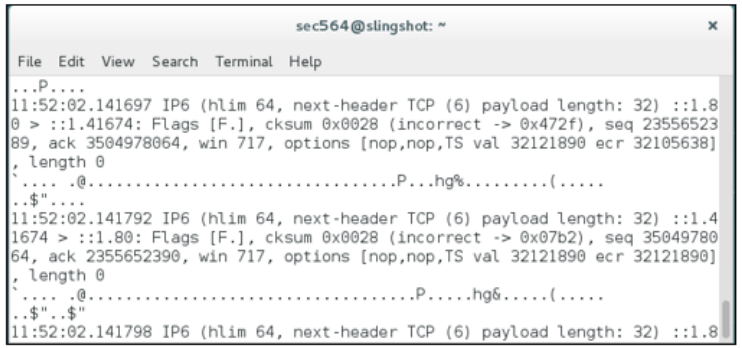


Figure 1: <DESCRIPTION>

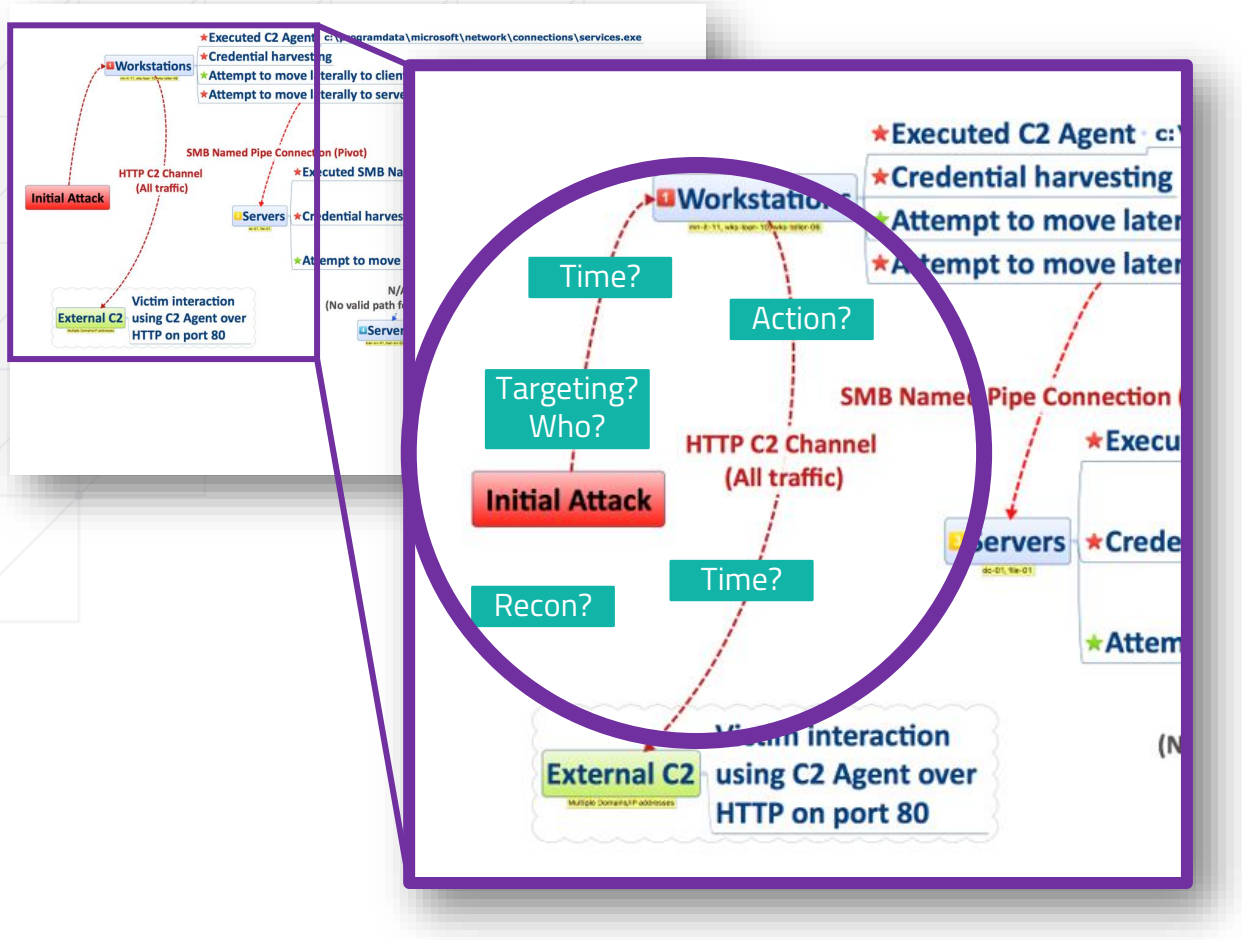
Recommendations

Little burn here and there

Source: https://redteam.guide/docs/templates/report_template/

Building deliverables together 1/2

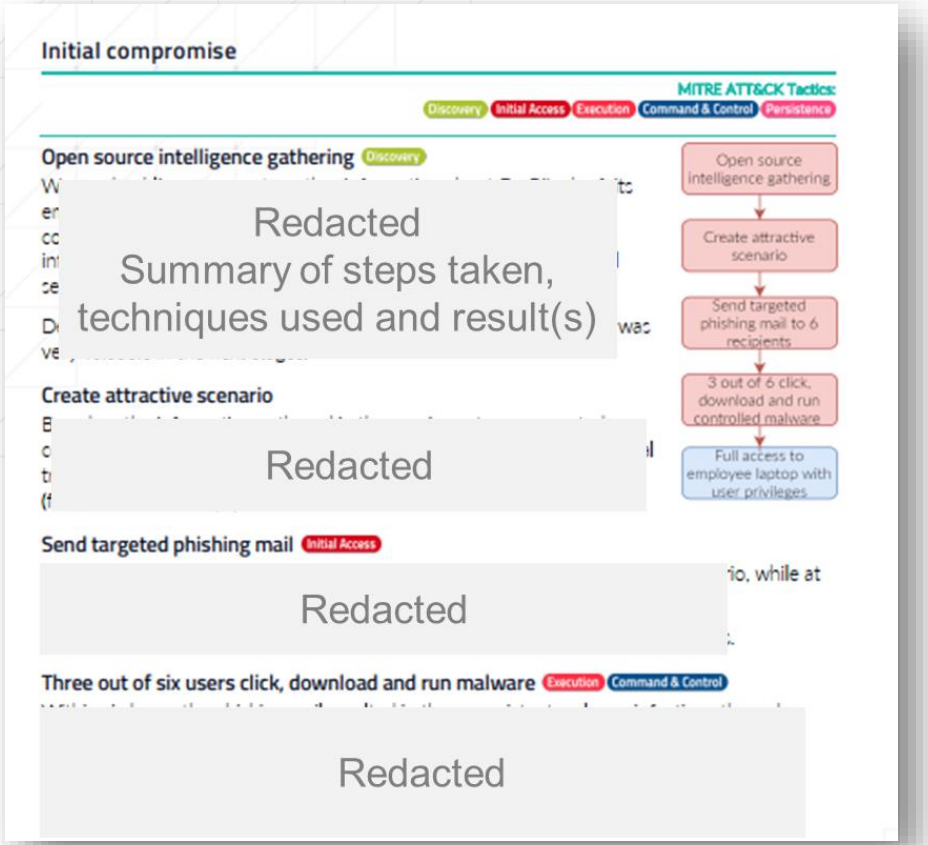
Teamwork makes the dream work

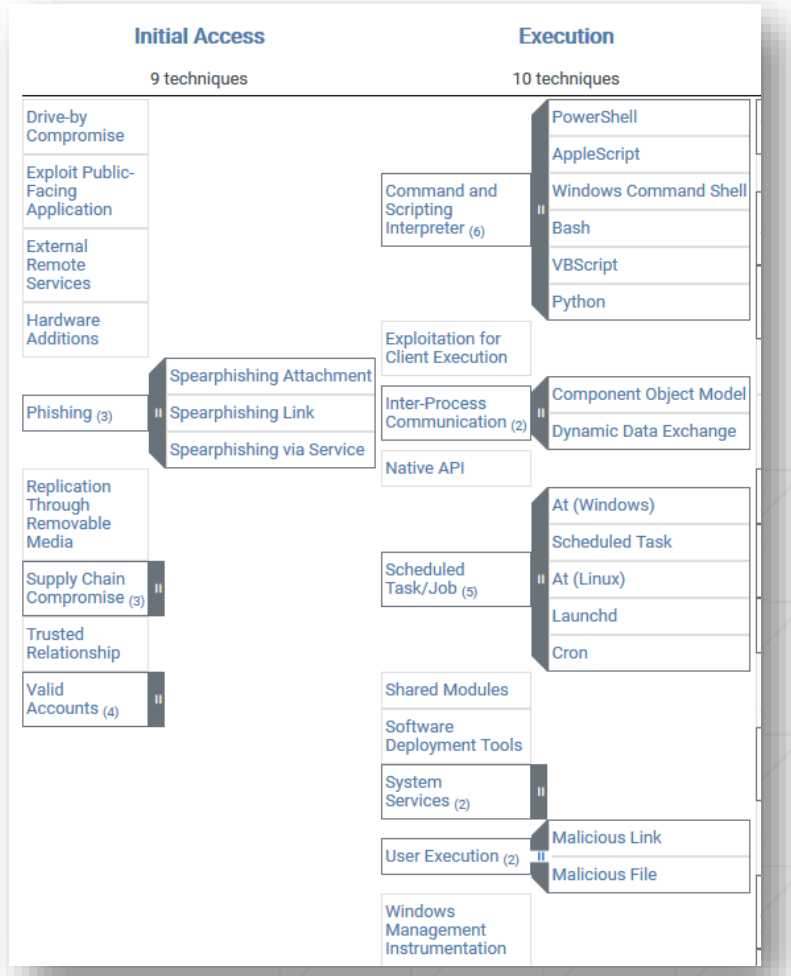


- What can/can't we measure?
- Mean-time-to-detect (when/where) + rationale (luck vs skill)
- Dealing with creativity & exploiting known loopholes
- Sync measurements into your playbook

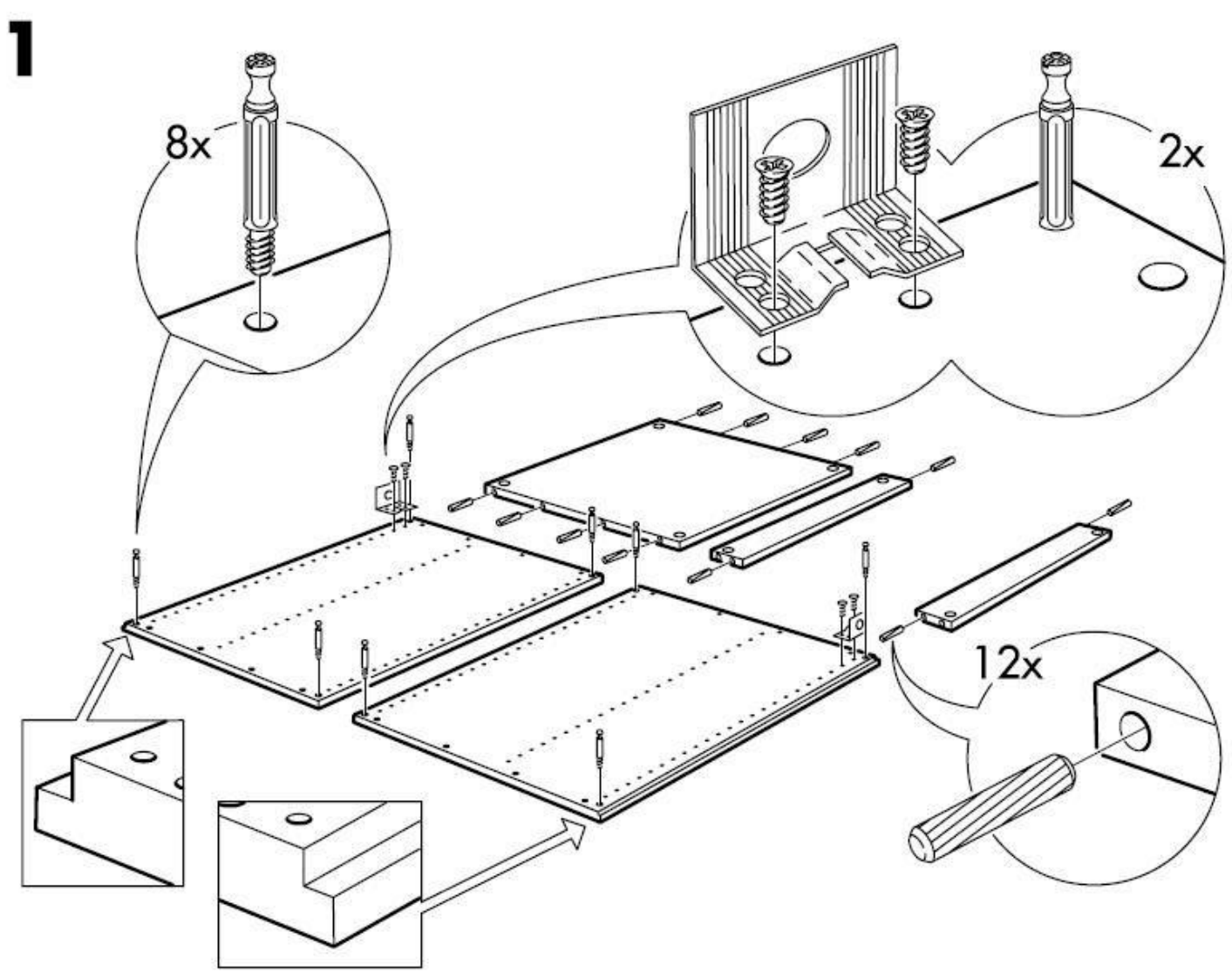
Building deliverables together 2/2

Match reference frameworks as you can, but not more.



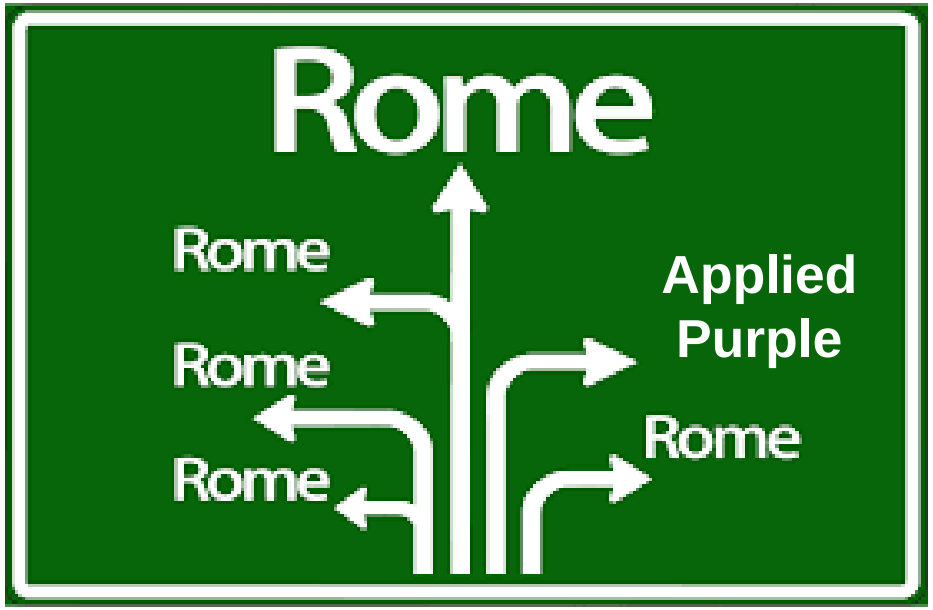


Example

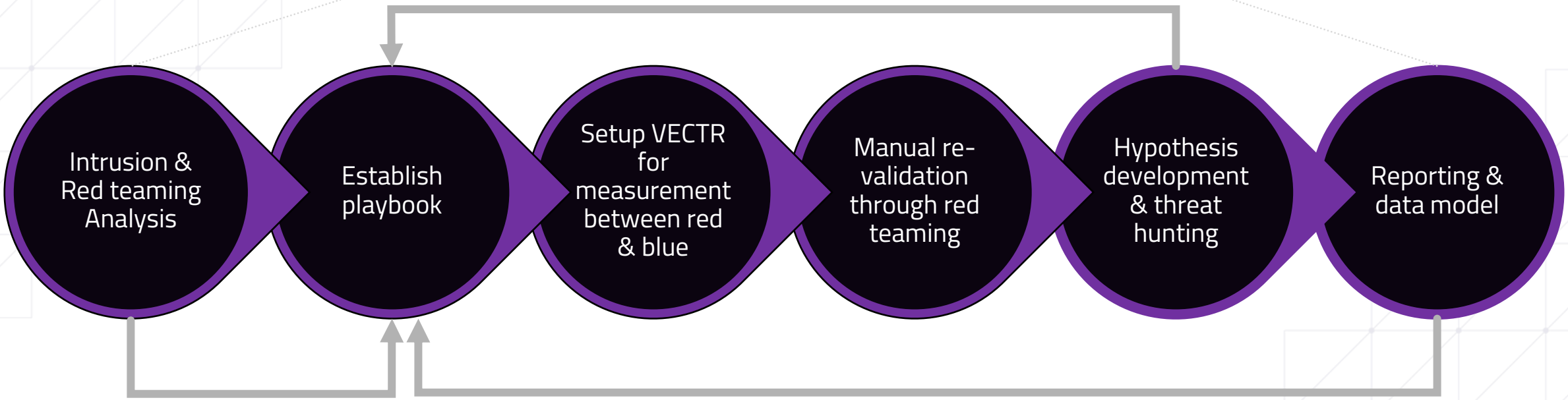

1
8x
2x
12x

How can we understand what's next?

There are many approaches, yet I'll only focus on one in particular

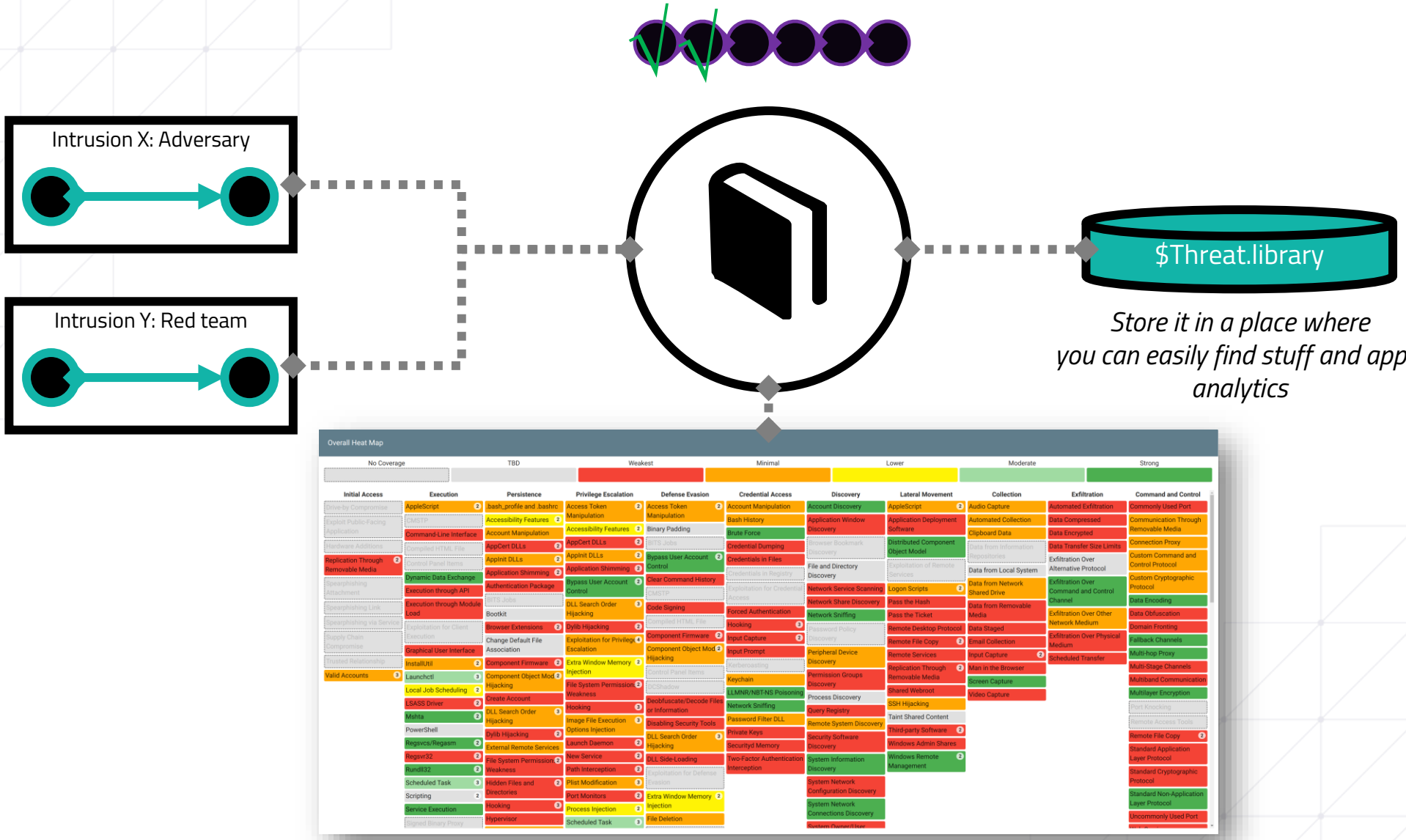


Applied purple example flow

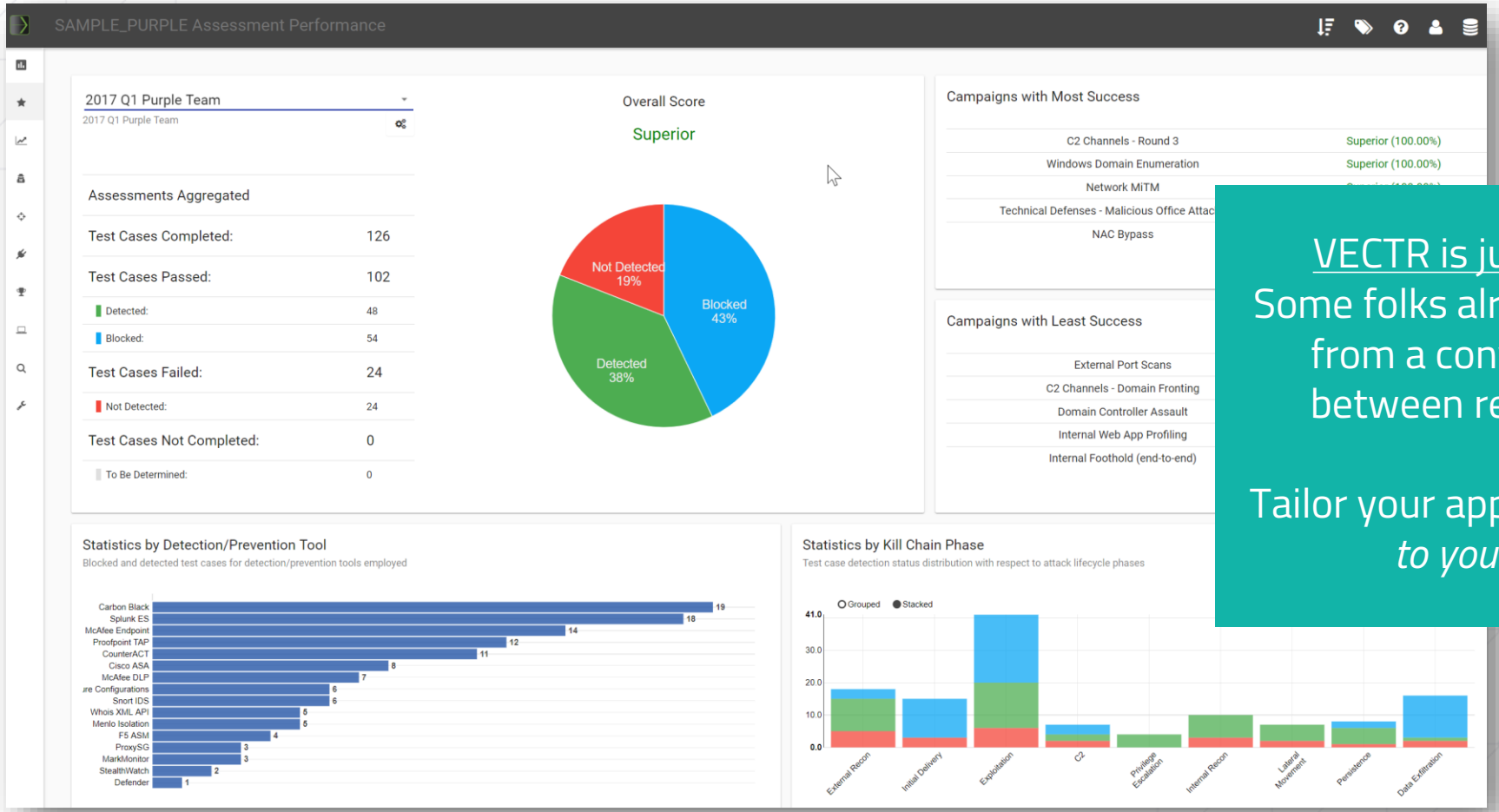


More on applied purple, amazing preso by @jorgeorchilles:
https://www.sans.org/cyber-security-summit/archives/file/summit_archive_1571685484.pdf

Applied purple: Intrusion/RT analysis + playbooks



Applied purple: use VECTR to facilitate collaboration 1/2

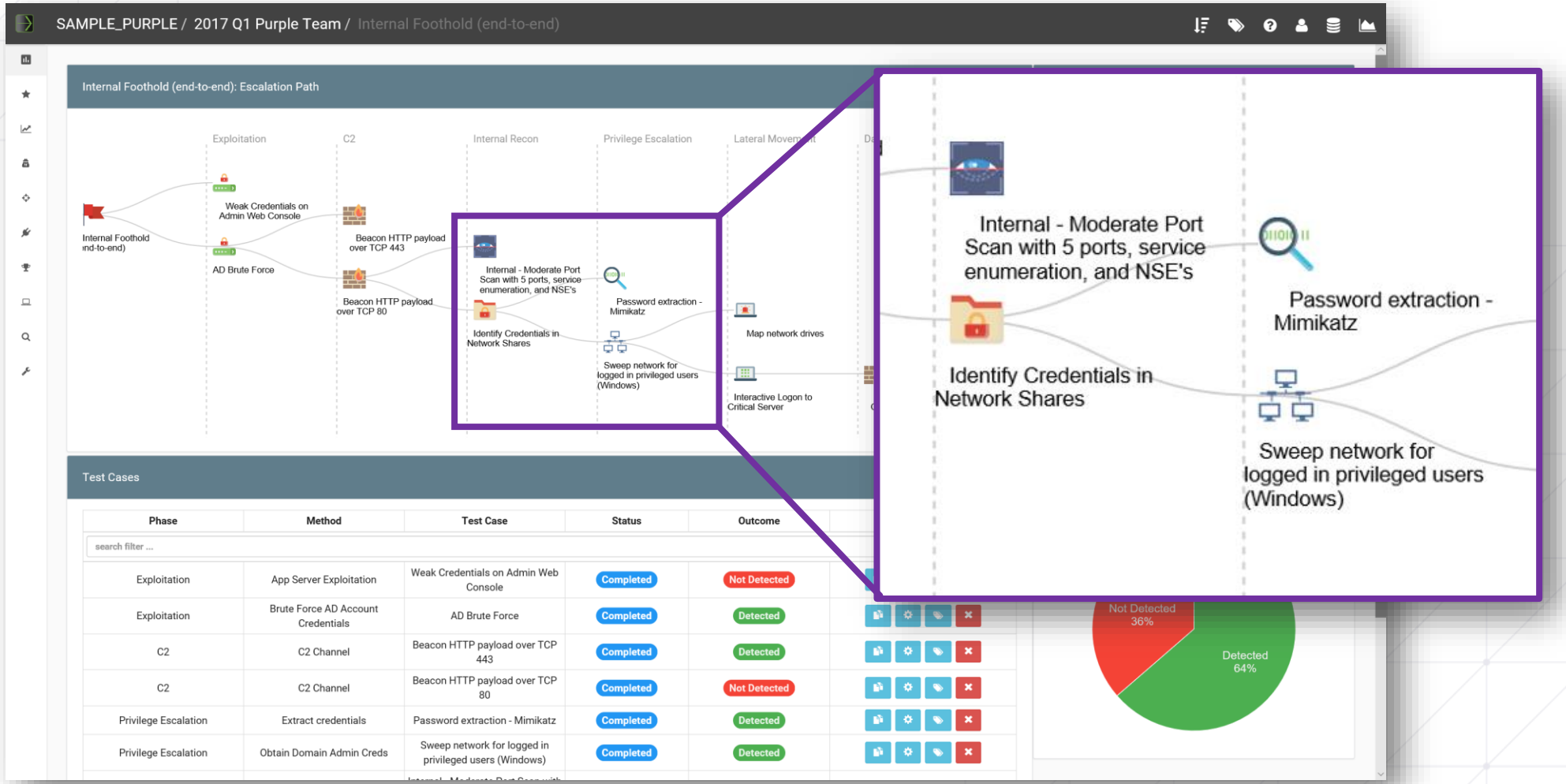


VECTR is just a tool.
Some folks already benefit from a conversation between red & blue.

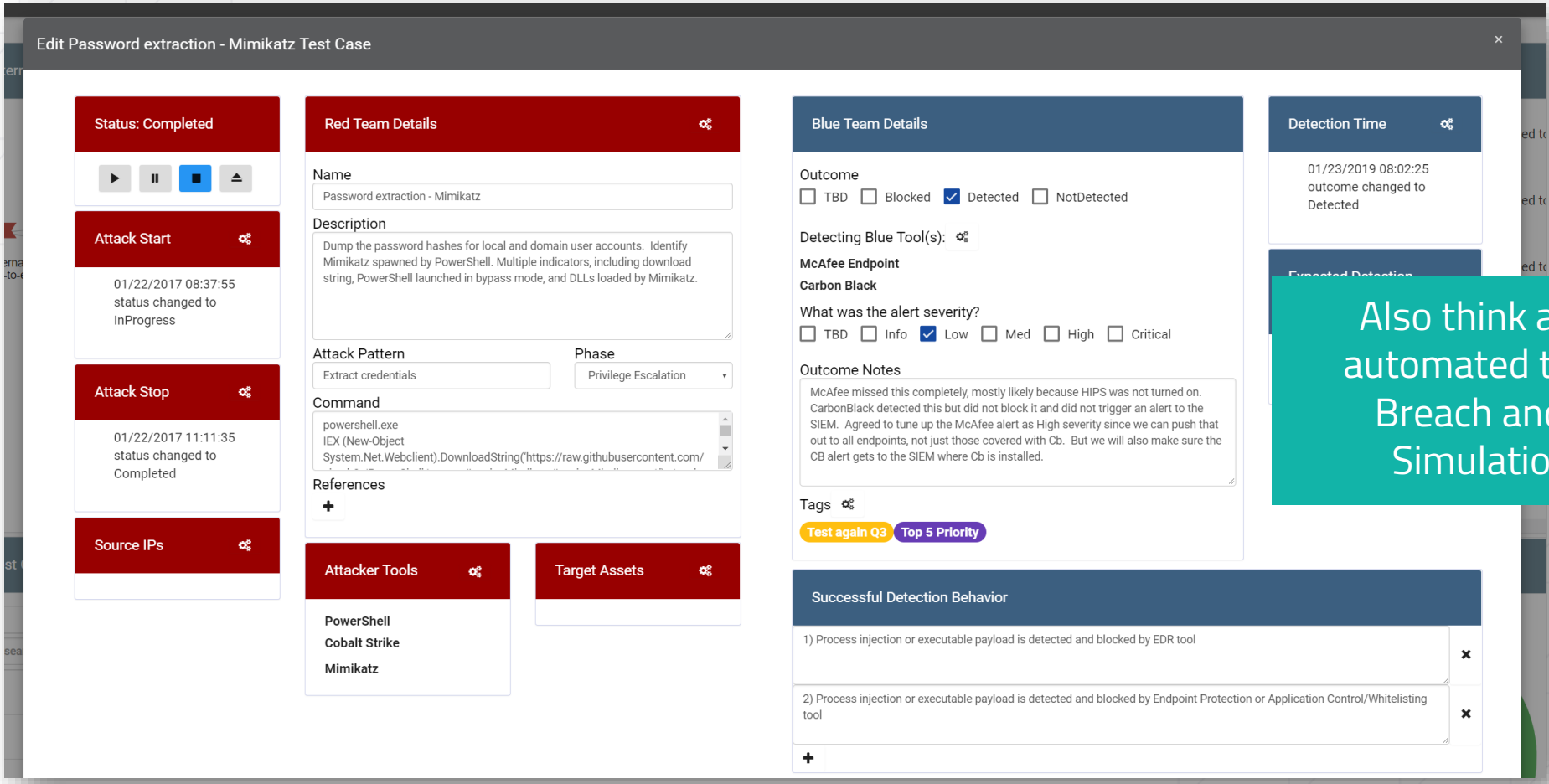
Tailor your approach & tool *to your org.*

https://github.com/SecurityRiskAdvisors/VECTR

Applied purple: Report red teaming inside VECTR

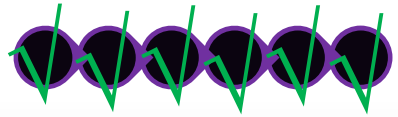


Applied purple: Hypothesis-based hunting



Also think about the automated testing via Breach and Attack Simulation tools

Applied purple: Reporting & data wizardry



The goal is never just good or bad.
The approach is striving to continuous control testing.

Closing thoughts

- Purple approach is no silver bullet;
  I consider it an effective means to test defenses, controls and risk
- Start measuring to create better data, discussions and decisions
- There are no excuses for blue; work smarter, not harder

Cheers!

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Special thanks to Ikea for using their visual references